

OUTLOOK

Commentary and Opinion

9-1
8

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Still the American Melting Pot

Kids, Parents, Forget Prestige Prep—D.C.'s Public Schools Can Put You On the Fast Track!

By Robert S. Greenberger

CAN YOU NAME a local high school whose students come from 75 countries? Whose choir has distinguished itself in competitions from Boston to Vienna and whose seniors this year will be awarded about \$850,000 in academic college scholarships?

If you live in upper Northwest Washington, chances are you probably didn't guess *Wilson High School*. Indeed, in our neighborhood,

Robert Greenberger is the State Department correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*.

Wilson, the local public school that is within walking distance, remains one of the best-kept secrets in town.

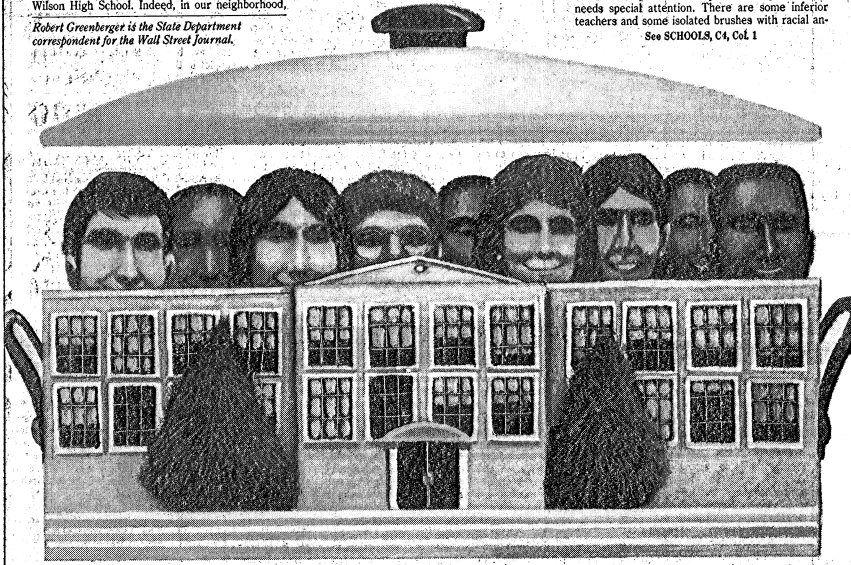
Over the years, whenever my wife, Phyllis, and I mention that our three sons attend District public schools, we often get looks suggesting we must be either indigent or child abusers. We are neither.

We sent our children to local public schools because they offer a first-rate education together with the chance to know kids with backgrounds different from their own and to understand that many of those differences aren't as important as they might

have thought. They befriended the offspring of distinguished diplomats and journalists, Central American immigrants and kids who had never met their fathers. They discovered "BAPs" (Black-American princesses) from Washington's Gold Coast and met a boy so poor he worked 45 minutes during lunch hour each day at a local 7-Eleven in order to earn money to take the bus to school.

Wilson High School, to be sure, isn't for everyone. With 1,500 students—60 percent black, 20 percent international (mostly Asian and Hispanic) and 20 percent white—and a student-teacher ratio of 25 to one, it's not the place for any child who needs special attention. There are some inferior teachers and some isolated brushes with racial an-

See SCHOOLS, C4, Col. 1



DAVID CUTLER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Has Webster's No-Risk CIA Lost Its Punch?

By Tom Polgar

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER has been director of the Central Intelligence Agency since May 1987. His priorities during the first year were the restoration of some calm and order and "cleaning up" Casey's mess. He promised to keep CIA operations in "absolute fidelity to our Constitution and to our laws" and he has been successful in developing friendly working relations with Congress.

All this is to the good. But agency veterans cannot help but wonder whether in this new world of harmony and regulated orderliness there will be any room for the occasionally controversial and at times messy clandestine operations that are an essential part of the CIA's mission.

During his distinguished career as a federal judge and FBI director, Webster was not known as a risk-taker. Yet spying is not without risks. They can be reduced through good planning and sound practices, but perfect security is possible only with zero operations. And the danger today is that we may be headed in that direction.

Under Webster, the agency's top priority seems to be staying out of trouble with Congress and the press. Following the Iran-contra scandal, there has been a significant exodus of experienced officers; among the employees who remain, there is said to be concern whether management will stand behind people who are involved in risky operations in the future.

The new watchword at the agency seems to be "Do No Harm"—which is fine for doctors but may not encourage imagination and initiative in secret operations.

We need to be honest about why espionage is necessary. Despite the astonishing advances of technology, when it comes to intelligence on intentions—of what goes on in the other fellow's head—the best information will come from human beings willing and able to penetrate into the secrets of foreign governments and live long enough to tell about it. To put it another way: Spies must obtain the very information that foreign governments, groups or organizations do not want to give.

Clandestine collection of secret intelligence is always illicit. Whether it is evil depends on the eyes of the beholder. We look with greater kindness on those who spy for the United States than on those who spy against us. But let us not fool ourselves: What is illegal under U.S. law when carried out against American interests is also

See CIA, C2, Col. 1

Tom Polgar retired from the CIA in 1981 after 35 years working in American intelligence.



MARY McGRORY

Dukakis' Ironing-Board Power

EAST LOS ANGELES—The four purposeful young women, all organizers for the Center for Participation in Democracy, move onto the campus of Lincoln High School and go to work. First they set up four ironing boards.

Ironing boards? Yes. They're easier to

Mary McGrory is a Washington Post columnist.

carry, accommodate more clipboards, and would-be registrants don't have to bend over as they would for the traditional card table.

Of course, it also means that the registrant must stand the whole time. But commitment is at the core of the CPD efforts—which, despite its homely trademark, is the most sophisticated, structured, computerized registration drive in the country. The center is a

non-partisan, tax-exempt organization which will close down on Oct. 11, the last day of registration. If, however, it reaches its goal of adding one million new voters to the rolls, Michael Dukakis will be the beneficiary and win California's 47 electoral votes. There are few Republicans in the minority, low-income and youth populations in ironing-board territory.

See McGRORY, C5, Col. 4

With Bobby Kennedy On That Last Campaign

By Richard Harwood

WE OFTEN PLAY "what if" games with dead favorites and heroes. I've never found it useful to do that with Bobby Kennedy. He was enigmatic and unpredictable in life and 20 years after his death, we have found no Rosetta Stone to explain him or reveal a script for another fate.

Those of us who admired him and thought we knew him were always puzzled that his congregation contained so many sects. He was wildly popular in the black ghettos, in the Hispanic slums and in the Wallaceite precincts of Birmingham. It made sense only in some existential way. The same with those who despised him—the liberal intellectuals and the Kennedy-haters of various hues inherited from his brother's time in office. At a campaign stop in San Francisco in 1968 he was booed and cursed by a university audience; one student spit in his face. At a Los Angeles rally an adoring and hysterical crowd trampled a young mother and her baby. The child was torn from her arms and hurled through the air toward Kennedy's open car. It was caught by a photographer.

There was too much passion that year, but in some very curious way emotion seemed to be Kennedy's milieu. He was born for maelstroms. None of us knows if Robert Kennedy could have been elected then or in another year. And except in the vaguest way, none of us knows what his presidency would have been like or what policies he would have pursued. Arthur Schlesinger Jr., to whom he confided freely, thinks he would have shortened the Vietnam war and expanded the programs of social reform begun by his brother, the president. But that is very imprecise. One of his few specific campaign promises was made in jest to the columnist, Jack Newfield: He

Richard Harwood is *The Post's* Ombudsman. He covered Robert Kennedy's 1968 campaign as a reporter for *The Post*.



MATTHEW LEWIS—THE WASHINGTON POST

would change the national anthem to "This Land Is Your Land." When the wind in Nebraska swept a page from his speech, he threw up his hands and declared: "Well, there it went, my entire farm policy." This crowd loved the joke. The real joke is that it was true. He barely knew a pig from a groundhog.

Many in his family recall him as a more radical figure than I remember. But then he was changing all the time, becoming a more interesting and more provocative man, changing, it sometimes seemed, from day to day in ways that enhanced him and fascinated those around him. Martin Luther King Jr. once used a phrase that caught Kennedy's essence: "A creative synthesis of opposites."

In some of the post-assassination rhetoric the words "towering figure" came into common usage. I always smile at that because I remember how tiny he often seemed, surrounded and buffeted by crowds out of con-

See KENNEDY, C3, Col. 1

The Devil in Gorbachev

Would Congress Balk at Deals With the Antichrist?

By Art Levine

MAYBE IT'S that weird red mark on Mikhail Gorbachev's forehead. Maybe it's conservative disappointment that Ronald Reagan has gone to Moscow. But for whatever reason, there is a small but vocal group of fundamentalist Christians who are prepared to argue that the Soviet general secretary is the Antichrist, the Devil's agent on Earth. They don't simply mean that Gorbachev is an evil man, or that he represents an evil system. No. They mean that he is the tool of the Devil. The Antichrist. Mr. 666 himself.

"The evidence is overwhelming that Gorbachev is the Antichrist," says Robert W. Faid, a 59-year-old former engineering supervisor who holds a master's degree in theology from Coatesville Bible College and is author of "A Scientific Approach to Christianity." He argues in a new book, "Gorbachev Has the Real Antichrist Come," that the Soviet leader fulfills virtually all the biblical prophecies about the Antichrist.

Art Levine is a Washington writer.

To Faid, last week's summit meeting in Moscow was a tragedy. "I'm sure that President Reagan has no idea that who he's talking to is, as the evidence indicates, the Antichrist."

Take the matter of that birthmark on Gorbachev's forehead. To Faid and those who share his views, that's not just an ordinary birthmark. It's The Mark of Satan. "When I look at the top of Gorbachev's head, I see a red dragon and over the right eye, there's a tail that hangs, representing stars," says Faid. He explains that St. John in Revelations 12:3-4, portrays Satan in similar terms, as a "great red dragon... and his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth..." Thus, says Faid, "If Gorbachev is truly the Antichrist, Satan branded him in his mother's womb."

The Antichrist, in New Testament lore, is the Satanic dictator who will plunge the world into misery and war before Jesus Christ returns to save the faithful. There have been previous candidates nominated for this post by fundamentalist Christians—

See GORBACHEV, C4, Col. 1



WILLIAM L. BROWN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, where the funeral was held, the service was extensive with music, eulogies and prayers. At the close of the service, one of his friends said to me, "If it had not been for Bobby, Bobby would have stayed in the box."

I've thought since that Bobby must have been given him that line.